GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:725
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
BLOOD BANKS
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proper screening tests are not done to detect viruses of fatal diseases during blood donation and in view of that, blood banks are spreading deadly diseases as reported in the 'Statesman' dated September 4, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any effective steps to check the spread of deadly diseases due to lapses on the part of blood banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. As per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, it is mandatory to test each unit of blood for the five Transfusion Transmissible Infections viz. HIV, Hepatitis B(HBsAg), Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria. Nucleic Acid Test is not a mandatory requirement.

(c)&(d): In order to provide safe blood, the Government of India is providing support to the state governments for training of personnel; augmenting the proportion of voluntary blood donation; and support to 1230 blood banks to maintain quality standards in blood bank practices. Professional blood donation is banned since 1 January, 1998. As per the amendment in the drugs and cosmetics act/rules no 'stand-alone blood bank' in the private sector will be licensed to operate. State Blood Transfusion Councils take follow up action with the state drug authorities on receipt of any complaint.